

CLAIMS:

1. A method of analysing and reformatting a passage of text, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) identifying words in the passage of text representing different parts of speech;

10 (b) grouping at least some of the identified words into discrete units representing discrete linguistic phrases, so as to generate a partially analysed text passage;

15 (c) identifying logically significant conjunctions within the said partially analysed text passage; and

15 (d) reformatting the passage of text that has been analysed so as to reveal the logical structure thereof.

20 2. The method of claim 1, in which the step of identifying words in the passage of text representing different parts of speech comprises employing a statistical analysis upon the words in the passage of text so as to determine a most likely part of speech category for each word.

25 3. The method of claim 2, in which the step of performing a statistical analysis comprises performing Hidden Markov Modelling upon the passage of text to be analysed.

30 4. The method of claim 1, in which the steps of grouping at least some of the identified words into discrete units comprises grouping at least some of the identified words into a first set of intermediate phrases on the basis of a first predetermined finite set of linguistic rules.

35 5. The method of claim 4, in which the first set of intermediate phrases includes a phrase selected

from the list comprising a noun phrase and a verb phrase.

6. The method of claim 4, in which the step of
5 grouping at least some of the identified words into discrete units further comprises grouping at least some of the intermediate phrases into a second set of final phrases on the basis of a second predetermined finite set of linguistic rules, such that a selected one of
10 the final phrases in the said second set is made up of a plurality of intermediate phrases from the said first set.

7. The method of claim 6, in which the step of
15 grouping the intermediate phrases into the second set of final phrases is carried out through finite state analysis.

8. The method of claim 1, in which the step of
20 identifying logically significant conjunctions comprises the step of searching for predetermined phrase patterns from within the said partially analysed text passage.

25 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising, after the said step of identifying logically significant conjunctions in the partially analysed text passage, the steps of:

30 identifying a grammatically appropriate location for inserting of a second part of a two part conjunction within the passage of text to be analysed, when such second part of the said conjunction is not already present; and

35 automatically inserting at the identified location, an indicator into the reformatted passage of text when the text is displayed, the said indicator indicating that the said second part of the conjunction should be present there.

10. The method of claim 1, in which the passage
of text is stored in electronic form on a digital
computer, the method further comprising, prior to the
step (a) of identifying words representing different
parts of speech, the steps of:

5 receiving the passage of text to be analysed in
electronic form; and

tokenising the received passage of text to
identify separate sentences and paragraphs.

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11. The method of claim 10, further comprising,
after the step (c) of identifying logically significant
conjunctions, the step of:

15 inserting formatting information into the passage
of text in electronic form so that, when displayed, the
logically significant conjunctions are distinguishable
from the remaining text.

20 12. A computer readable medium upon which is
recorded a software routine for carrying out the method
of claim 1.